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AMIN & TUROCY, LLP
24TH FLOOR, NATIONAL CITY CENTER
1900 EAST NINTH STREET
CLEVELAND, OH 44114

EXAMINER

JARRETT, SCOTT L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/800,163

Applicant(s)

MITAL ET AL.

Examiner

Scott L. Jarrett

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: 105 Requirement

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to Applicant's amendment filed April 4, 2005. Applicant submitted replacement drawings, amended the specification and amended claims 1-38. Claims 1-62 are currently pending in this application.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment filed on April 4, 2005 with respect to claims 1-62 has been accepted.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed April 4, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the BizTalk2000 is not a proper reference since sufficient proof has not been provided of the availability and accessibility of the Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000 Documentation Guide prior to the filing date of the subject patent application.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. The Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000 Enterprise Edition **product** is a proper reference under USC 102(a) and subsequently USC 103(a) for the following reasons:

- Claims 1-62 are rejected as being anticipated or not obvious in light of Microsoft's BizTalk Server 2000 Enterprise Edition (herein after referred to as BizTalk Server) **product** in its entirety and not exclusively the teachings of the Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000 Documentation Guide (1999-2000).
- The references cited in the first office action teach that the BizTalk Server **product** was available and in public use prior to the subject patents effective filing date of March 26, 2001:
 - Microsoft Advances BizTalk Vision with release of BizTalk Jumpstart Kit 2.0 (February 14, 2000)
 - Microsoft debuts BizTalk 2000 Technology (April 2000);
 - McKendrick, Joseph, Microsoft Orchestrates Visual View of BizTalk (June 2000);
 - Microsoft announces availability of BizTalk Server 2000 beta (August 15, 2000);
 - Mohr, Stephen, Introduction to Microsoft BizTalk Server (September, 2000);
 - Gilmore et al., Talking about BizTalk (Fall 2000); and
 - Scheier et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0035584 (claiming priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/262076, filed January 18, 2001).
- The following newly cited references teach the BizTalk Server **product** was available and in use prior to the subject patents effective filing date of March 26, 2001:

- BizTalk Orchestration – A Technology for Orchestrating Business Interactions White Paper (June 5, 2000); and
 - BizTalk Initiative for Automating Business Process Integration White Paper (March 15, 2000).
- The applicant has not established that the BizTalk Server product is not activity by another under USC 102(a). Specifically the applicant did not challenge that the BizTalk Server product constitutes activity by another or argue that the subject patent's applicants represent the same inventive entity as the BizTalk Server product.
- The BizTalk Server product is the applicant's own product and as such the applicant is in the best position to provide details as to the availability, public use or sale of the product. Therefore examiner has requested information related to the availability, public user or sale of the BizTalk Server.

For the above stated reasons the USC 102(a) rejections of claims 1-31, 34-36 and 38-62 and USC 103(a) rejections of claims 32-33 and 37 are **maintained**.

Examiner respectfully requests the BizTalk Initiative for Automating Business Process Integration White Paper prepared March 15, 2000 as cited in the retrieved Microsoft.com web page(s) via archive.org (July 2000).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 2-21, 23-38 and 53-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding Claims 2-3, 12, 15, and 20-21, claims 2-3, 12, 15, and 20-21 recite the limitation "the program" in Claim 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 1..." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claims 4 and 8, claims 4 and 8 recite the limitation "the program" in Claim 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 3..." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claims 5-6, claims 5-6 recite the limitation "the program" in Claim 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 4..." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 7, claim 7 recites the limitation "the program" in Claim 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 6..." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 9, claim 9 recites the limitation "the program" in Claim 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 8..." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 10, claim 10 recites the limitation "the program" in Claim 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 9..." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claims 13-14, claims 13-14 recite the limitation "the program" in Claim 12. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 12..." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claims 16-18, claims 16-18 recite the limitation "the program" in Claim 15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 15..." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 19, claim 19 recites the limitation "the program" in Claim 18. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 18..." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claims 23-38, claims 23-28 similarly lack insufficient antecedent basis. Examiner suggests applicant amend the claims to read "...~~program~~ the computer readable medium..." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 53, claim 53 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 53 claims two statutory classes of invention in the same claim; specifically applicant claims both a system (a method/process) and a computer-readable medium containing executable code (an article of manufacture).

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Examiner suggests applicant amends claim 53 to recite only a single invention (system and/or article of manufacture) and then amend claims 54-58 to reflect the amendments made to claim 53.

Further applicant claims that the system comprises a plurality of business operations. Examiner requests clarification as to what structure in the disclosed invention is associated with the business operations and how a system can comprise a business operation, systems typically comprising hardware and/or software components/elements.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

6. Claims 59-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The basis of this rejection is set forth in a two-prong test of:

- (1) whether the invention is within the technological arts; and
- (2) whether the invention produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result.

For a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must be within the technological arts. Mere ideas in the abstract (i.e., abstract idea, law of nature, natural phenomena) that do not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts fail to promote the "progress of science and the useful arts" (i.e., the physical sciences as opposed to social sciences, for example) and therefore are found to be non-statutory subject matter. For a process claim to pass muster, the recited process must somehow apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts. Additionally, for a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must produce a useful, concrete, and tangible result.

Software, programming, instructions or code not claimed as embodied in computer-readable media are descriptive material per se and are not statutory because they are not capable of causing functional change in a computer. When such descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases.

Furthermore, software, programming, instructions or code not claimed as being computer executable are not statutory because they are not capable of causing functional change in a computer. In contrast, when a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer and the program, and the computer is capable of executing the program, allowing the program's functionality to be realized, the program will be statutory.

Regarding Claims 59-62, claims 59-62 do not utilize the proper computer program product format and effectively recite software per se (descriptive material). Claims 59-62 are therefore deemed to be directed to non-statutory subject matter where there is no indication that the proposed software is recorded on computer-readable medium and/or capable of execution by a computer. Examiner suggests that the applicant incorporate into Claims 59-62 language that the proposed software is recorded on computer-readable medium and capable of execution by a computer to overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-31, 34-36 and 38-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000 Enterprise Edition (herein after referred to as BizTalk Server) as evidenced by the Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000 Documentation Guide (1999-2000).

Regarding Claims 1, 21-23, 39, 52-53, 58-60 and 62 BizTalk Server teaches a workflow management system for modeling, building, scheduling and executing dynamic business processes (Page 0, Paragraphs 1-2). BizTalk Server further teaches that the BizTalk Framework 2.0 builds upon existing standards, tools and systems (Page 0, Paragraph 1; Page 26, Paragraph 1). BizTalk Server further teaches that the workflow management system includes (Pages 1, 17-19, 28-30 and 50):

- an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) based scheduling language (XLANG language and an XLANG scheduler engine (Pages 8, 15, 19 and 46);
- a visual business process modeling sub-system BizTalk Orchestration Designer (as shown in Figure 1 below; Pages 1-10, 4, 15, 17 and 18);

- a sub-system for creating, editing and managing maps (mapping data sources and records, BizTalk Mapper Pages 15 and 34); and
- a sub-system for creation, editing and managing specifications (BizTalk Editor; Pages 15 and 34);

More specifically BizTalk Server teaches a workflow scheduler graphical user interface system comprising (XLANG Schedule drawing, BizTalk Orchestration Designer; Module 1: Modeling Business Process, Pages 1-10):

- a screen (first region, first area, window, display, etc.) enabling a user to create graphical (visual, iconic, shapes, etc.) representations of a plurality of business processes (workflows, business maps, etc.; Pages 4 and 38);
- a screen (second region, second area, window, display, etc.) enabling a user to bind (link, couple, etc.) the graphical representation of a business process to one of a plurality of components (sub-processes, technical, implementation shapes, etc.; Page 4 and Pages 54-55); and
- and capable of converting (translating, transforming, generating, etc.) the graphical representation of the business process into executable code (XLANG schedule, software, program, script, etc.; Pages 10 and 19).

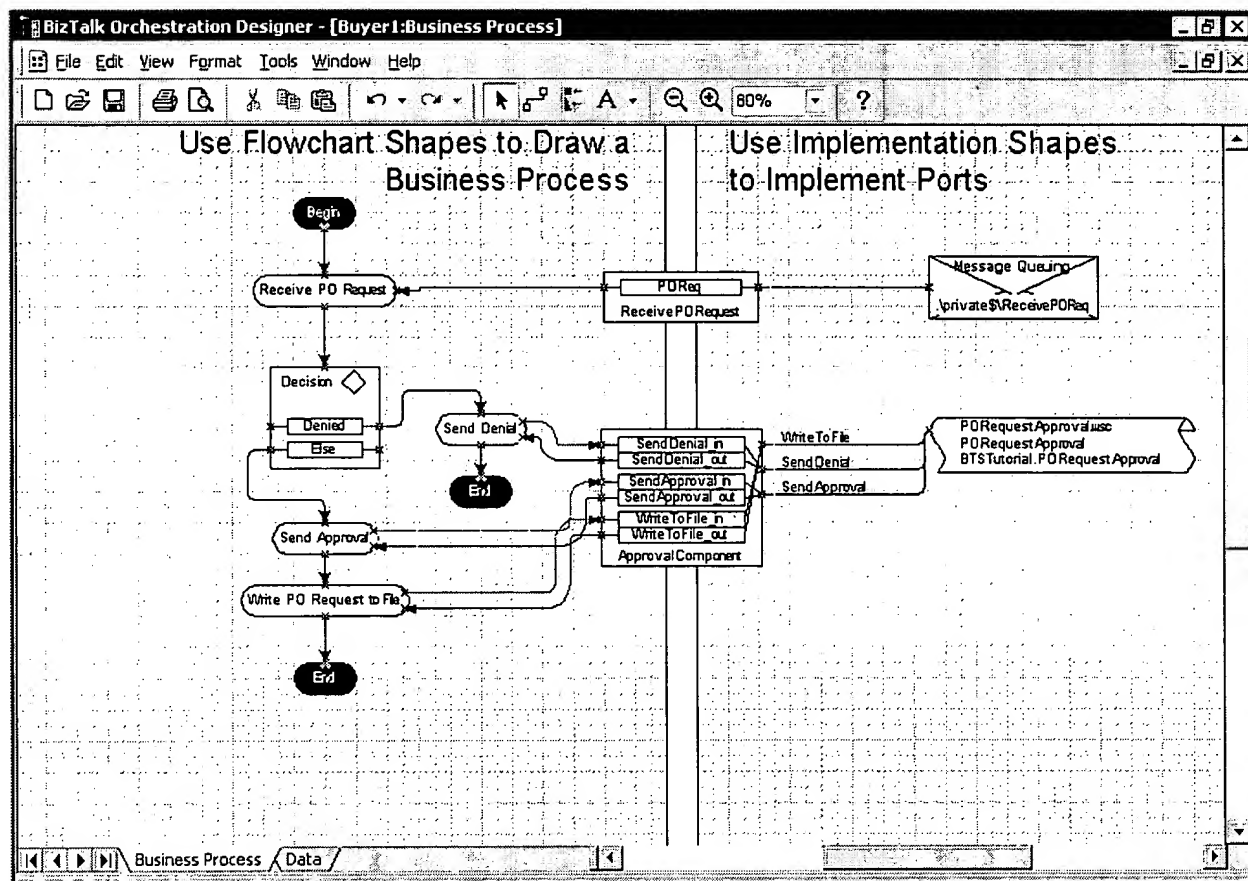


Figure 1: BizTalk Orchestration Designer Screen Shot

Regarding Claims 2 and 40 BizTalk Server teaches a separator bar separating the first screen area from the second screen area (as shown in Figure 1 above; Page 4).

Regarding Claims 3-6, 8, 11, 26-27, 41 and 54 BizTalk Server teaches that the workflow scheduler system further comprises a plurality of workflow components (flowchart and communication shapes, flowchart stencil), that represent the routing logic in an XLANG schedule drawing, enabling the user to create a graphical representation

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of a business process. BizTalk Server further teaches that the workflow components can be accessed in a plurality of ways including but not limited to a workflow component menu and that the workflow components include but are not limited to: Abort, Action, Begin, Decision, End, Fork (branching), Join, Transaction (a collection of actions, action grouping), and While (as shown in Figure 2 below; Pages 20-22 and 38).

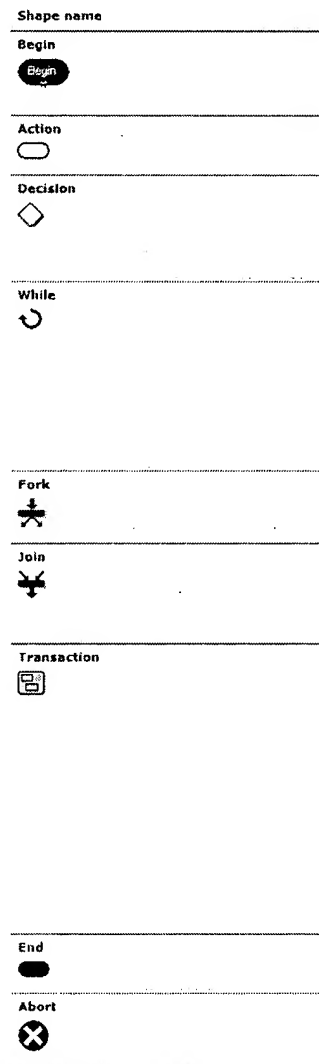


Figure 2: Workflow Shapes

BizTalk Server further teaches that users and components in the workflow management system have roles (Page 48).

Regarding Claims 7, 35 and 43 BizTalk Server teaches an editable transaction component (workflow shape) that enables the user to define transaction properties that are either compensation for transaction (nested transactions), on failure transactions and/or other general error handling (catch/throw) processes (Pages 21, 51-53 and 58-60).

Regarding Claims 9-10, 38 and 44-45 BizTalk Server teaches that the workflow management system includes a plurality of editable components. More specifically BizTalk Server teaches that the decision component is editable enabling the user to add, edit and delete rules to the decision component (Page 2, Steps 5-8; Page 20) and that the user can define the rules added to a decision component (Page 2, Step 7, Page 6, Steps 1-7).

Regarding Claims 12, 14 and 46 and 55 BizTalk Server teaches a binding component menu including a plurality of technological components (implementation shapes, components, etc.), representing the technologies that the XLANG scheduler engine supports, thereby enabling a user to bind (couple, link, etc.) the graphical representation of the business process to a plurality of components.

BizTalk Server further teaches that the implementation shapes include but are not limited to (as shown in Figure 3 below; Page 23; Page 16): messaging, COM, message queuing, and script components.

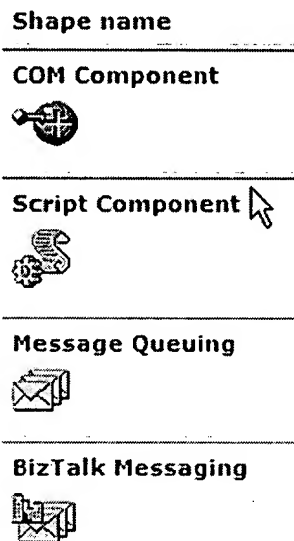


Figure 3: Implementation Components (shapes)

Regarding Claims 13 and 47 BizTalk Server teaches a message editor for a plurality of implementation components (shapes, technological components; Page 5, Steps 1-12, Page 5; Page 23).

Regarding Claims 15, 49 and 56 BizTalk Server teaches that the workflow management system provides at least one implementation port coupling of a plurality of workflow components to a plurality of technological components (Page 3, Steps 1-7; Steps 1-9, Pages 4-5; Pages 24 and 51-53).

Regarding Claims 16-17, 25, 57 and 61 BizTalk Server teaches that the workflow management system includes a data flow screen (area, region, sheet, screen, etc.) representing (displaying, illustrating, etc.) data flow between at least one implementation port and at least one technology component (as shown in Figure 3 above and Figure 4 below; Steps 1-3, Page 7) and that the implementation port can be provided by dragging the technological component into another screen (window, display, etc.).

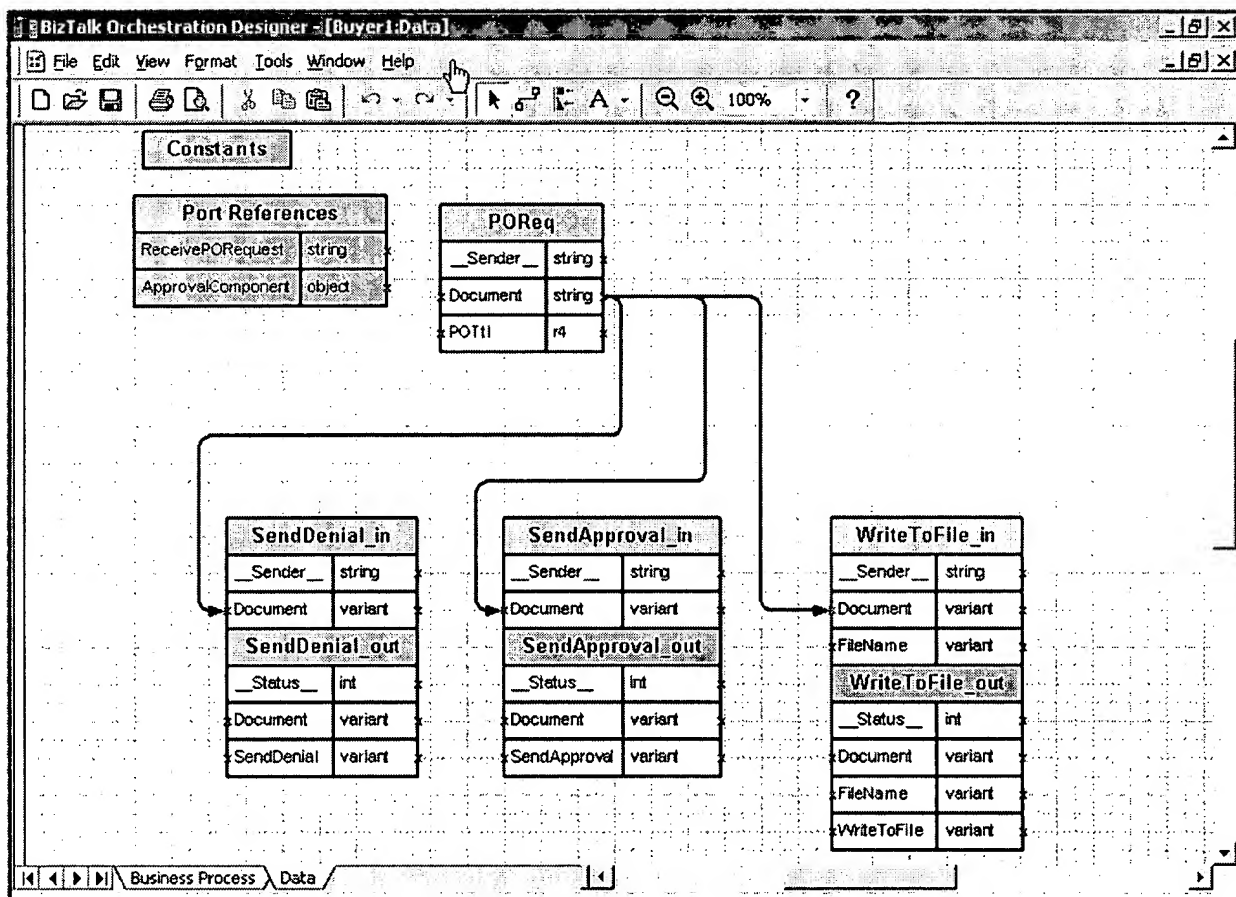


Figure 4: Dataflow Screen Shot

Regarding Claims 18-19, 50 and 51 BizTalk Server teaches that the workflow management system enables users to edit port properties and reference messages including but not limited to the ability to reorder implementation ports and add, delete and edit port messages and arguments (attributes, Pages 3-5; Pages 24-25).

Regarding Claims 20 and 48 BizTalk Server teaches that the system includes a binding wizard (COM binding wizard, Communication binding wizard, etc.) and further that the wizard is invoked by dragging one technological component onto the screen (display, region, area, window, etc; Page 3, Steps 1-7; Page 54).

Regarding Claim 24 BizTalk Server teaches that the system enables the user to enter interfaces and methods for a plurality of implementation components (technological components, COM, Script, etc.; Pages 51-57).

Regarding Claims 28 and 30 BizTalk Server teaches the use of control handles for connecting (linking, binding, etc.) a plurality of shapes to one another and further that the control handles are only available if they are enabled (Page 61).

Regarding Claim 29 BizTalk Server teaches that the workflow management system provides a plurality of tools, standards, properties and the like for management the state of transactions (state management; Pages 54-56).

Regarding Claim 31 BizTalk server teaches the linking (connecting, coupling, binding, etc.) of a plurality components including but not limited to transactions (action grouping, action group, collection of groups) as discussed above. Further BizTalk server teaches the use of ports in linking the plurality of components (Pages 1-10 and 63-64).

Regarding Claim 34 BizTalk Server teaches that transactions (collections/groups of actions, nested actions/transactions) are modeled in the same way as "simple" actions in that the flow of control may flow into the transaction at a single point and flow out of the transaction from a single point (Pages 21, 58 and 63-64).

Regarding Claim 36 BizTalk Server teaches that the transaction component is limited to two nesting levels (Page 58).

Regarding Claim 42 BizTalk Server teaches a drag and drop graphical user interface for selecting a plurality of components (implementation, workflow, technological, communication, etc.), graphically represented as images, icons, shapes, etc., enabling users to build graphical representations of business processes (as shown in Figure 4 above; Pages 1-10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 32-33 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000 Enterprise Edition (herein after referred to as BizTalk Server) as evidenced by the Microsoft BizTalk Server 2000 Documentation Guide (1999-2000).

Regarding Claims 32 BizTalk Server teaches a graphical workflow scheduler (management) system that enables users to visually model, build, and execute business process. BizTalk Server further teaches that the workflow management system has the ability to group actions into transactions as a means for simplifying the complex tasks and for insure the integrity of a transaction (Pages 21 and 63). BizTalk Server further teaches a plurality of consequences/resultant actions associated with the deletion of components (shapes, Page 62).

BizTalk Server does not expressly teach that actions associated with the deletion of a transaction results in the creation of an implementation port of the deleted action on the component separator bar.

Official notice is taken that identifying the port associated with the deleted component would provide a reminder to the user that the flow assigned to the port needs to be re-assigned or at the very least re-evaluated to insure the business process has no dangling (unassigned) flows; the placement of an implementation port of the deleted action on the component separator bar being one of obvious design choice.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the workflow management system as taught by BizTalk Server would have benefited from providing a means for alerting the user to potential unassigned flows in a business process resulting from the deletion of a plurality of components.

Regarding Claim 33 BizTalk Server teaches that components, including transactions, have associated states.

BizTalk does not expressly teach that a state associated with a transaction port will automatically create a transaction component port on an edge of the transaction component.

Official notice is taken that automatically creating a component port on the edge of a transaction is an obvious design choice thereby providing a convenient means for accessing the port. Accordingly it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at

the time of the invention that the workflow management system as taught by BizTalk Server would have benefited from automatically creating a component port on the edge of a transaction thereby providing a convenient means for accessing the port.

Regarding Claim 37 BizTalk Server teaches a plurality of editable schedule tool components (workflow, communication, implementation, XLAND scheduler engine, etc.) as discussed above. BizTalk Server further teaches that decision components are editable and provide the ability to add, edit and/or delete rules associated with the decision component.

BizTalk Server does not expressly teach that at least one of the rules for the decision component is non-editable.

Official notice is taken that a decision component must have at least one rule as a precondition for being considered a decision component for without at least one rule there would be no logic (rule) upon which to make a decision. Further making at least one of the rules non-editable is an obvious design choice providing a means for insuring that every decision component has at least one rule. Accordingly it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the workflow management system as taught by BizTalk Server would have benefited from requiring that each decision component have at least one on-editable rule associated with it

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thereby insuring that the decision component contained at least one rule/logic by which to execute its decisions against.

Conclusion

11. This Office action has an attached requirement for information under 37 C.F.R. § 1.105. A complete response to this Office action must include a complete response to the attached requirement for information. The time period for reply to the attached requirement coincides with the time period for reply to this Office action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Entner et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,745,901, teach a workflow system and method utilizing a graphical objects to initiate actions on workflow items/events.

- BizTalk Orchestration – A Technology for Orchestrating Business Interactions White Paper (June 5, 2000), teach the public availability of the BizTalk Server 2000 product and specifically its business process orchestration capabilities (workflow schedule graphical user interface program).

- BizTalk Initiative for Automating Business Process Integration White Paper (March 15, 2000) teach Microsoft's BizTalk initiative for automating business processes as well as the plurality of products that are part of the initiative including BizTalk Server 2000.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott L. Jarrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hafiz Tariq can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SJ
6/25/2005


TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Requirement for Information – USC § 1.105

1. Applicant and the assignee of this application are required under 37 CFR 1.105 to provide the following information that the examiner has determined is reasonably necessary to the examination of this application.

The information is required to identify products and services embodying the disclosed subject matter of modeling workflow processes employing a scheduler user interface and identify the properties of similar products and services found in the prior art.

In response to this requirement, please provide a list of citations to electronically searchable databases or other indexed collections containing publications that document the knowledge within the disclosed art of BizTalk suite of products/framework, BizTalk Orchestration, Visio suite of products, modeling of workflow processes, user interfaces for modeling workflows, graphically manipulation workflow process/business components, business process scheduling and representing business process schedules/workflow according to a set of rules and binding components (representations of business process/workflows/activities) to technological components.

In response to this requirement, please provide the citation and a copy of each publication which any of the applicants authored or co-authored and which describe the disclosed subject matter of BizTalk suite of products/framework, BizTalk Orchestration

Visio suite of products, modeling of workflow processes, user interfaces for modeling workflows, graphically manipulation workflow process/business components, business process scheduling and representing business process schedules/workflow according to a set of rules and binding components (representations of business process/workflows/activities) to technological components.

In response to this requirement, please provide the citation and a copy of each publication that any of the applicants relied upon to develop the disclosed subject matter that describes the applicant's invention, particularly as to developing BizTalk suite of products/framework, BizTalk Orchestration, Visio suite of products, modeling of workflow processes, user interfaces for modeling workflows, graphically manipulation workflow process/business components, business process scheduling and representing business process schedules/workflow according to a set of rules and binding components (representations of business process/workflows/activities) to technological components.

In response to this requirement, please provide the names of any products or services that have incorporated the claimed subject matter.

In response to this requirement, please state the specific improvements of the claimed subject matter in claims 1-62 over the disclosed prior art and indicate the specific elements in the claimed subject matter that provide those improvements. For

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those claims expressed as means or steps plus function, please provide the specific page and line numbers within the disclosure which describe the claimed structure and acts.

In response to this requirement, please state whether any search of prior art was performed. If a search was performed, please state the citation for each prior art collection searched. If any art retrieved from the search was considered relevant to demonstrating the knowledge of a person having ordinary skill in the art to the disclosed BizTalk suite of products/framework, BizTalk Orchestration, Visio suite of products, modeling of workflow processes, user interfaces for modeling workflows, graphically manipulation workflow process/business components, business process scheduling and representing business process schedules/workflow according to a set of rules and binding components (representations of business process/workflows/activities) to technological components, please provide the citation for each piece of art considered and a copy of the art.

In responding to those requirements that require copies of documents, where the document is a bound text or a single article over 50 pages, the requirement may be met by providing copies of those pages that provide the particular subject matter indicated in the requirement, or where such subject matter is not indicated, the subject matter found in applicant's disclosure.

The fee and certification requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 are waived for those documents submitted in reply to this requirement. This waiver extends only to those documents within the scope of this requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.105 that are included in the applicant's first complete communication responding to this requirement. Any supplemental replies subsequent to the first communication responding to this requirement and any information disclosures beyond the scope of this requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.105 are subject to the fee and certification requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97.

The applicant is reminded that the reply to this requirement must be made with candor and good faith under 37 CFR 1.56. Where the applicant does not have or cannot readily obtain an item of required information, a statement that the item is unknown or cannot be readily obtained will be accepted as a complete response to the requirement for that item.


This requirement is an attachment of the enclosed Office action. A complete response to the enclosed Office action must include a complete response to this requirement. The time period for reply to this requirement coincides with the time period for reply to the enclosed Office action, which is 1 month.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott L. Jarrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hafiz Tariq can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SJ
6/24/2005



TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600